

News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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JEFFERSON STREET PARK RENAMED TO HONOR LONGTIME CITIZENS RED AND BARBARA HARDING

Herndon, VA (January 24, 2006) – The Town Council of the Town of Herndon passed a resolution to formally rename the new Jefferson Street Park in recognition of Reuben Martt “Red” and Barbara Harding, longtime citizens of the Town who, according to the Council’s resolution, have “devoted countless hours, individually and collectively, toward improving the quality of life for Herndon’s youth.”

The Hardings moved to Herndon in 1950 and raised their five children in the Town. Harding Hall Day Care Center, operated in their Jackson Street home for 51 years, served as a model for children’s programs and established the Hardings as lifelong advocates of quality programs and care for children.

Red Harding, who is deceased, was active in the Boy Scouts of America and was a founding member of the Herndon Optimist Club, which today provides sports programs and other activities for youth.

Barbara Harding taught kindergarten at Herndon Elementary School for almost 20 years, retiring in 1988. She was named Citizen of the Year by the Herndon Rotary Club in 1967; was recognized for her volunteer efforts at the annual Mayor’s Volunteer Appreciation Night in 1988; and was selected as Woman of the Year by the Herndon Business and Professional Woman’s Club in 1995.

Jefferson Street Park, now known as Harding Park, opened in November 2005 at the intersection of Jefferson and Van Buren Streets on a parcel of land donated to the Town of Herndon by

Rucker Realty, Inc. The park is approximately 19,000 square feet and includes playground equipment for children.

The Town of Herndon was incorporated by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Virginia on January 14, 1879. Located in western Fairfax County, Herndon is the 3rd largest town in the Commonwealth and is home to more than 22,000 citizens. Businesses located within the Town of Herndon, which range from high tech enterprises to entrepreneurially-owned establishments, employ approximately 23,500 people.

For more information, visit the Town's website at **www.herndon-va.gov**.

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